Government grants for acquiring Cobalt units

732. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government gives grant to hospitals/medical colleges proposing to acquire the Cobalt radiotherapy units, and if so, what are the terms and conditions under which this grant is offered;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government grant for Cobalt radiotherapy units covers only about one-third of the landing cost of these units with the result that many deserving hospitals/colleges are unable to acquire these units because of their inability to raise funds; and

(c) whether Government propose to raise the quantum of the above grant and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) There is a scheme under the Govt. of India under which central assistance is given to State Government/Voluntary Institutions for setting up of Cobalt therapy unit @ Rs. 12 lakhs per unit. For this purpose the proposal for setting up of Cobalt unit in any instituions should first be considered and approved by the Standing Committee on Teletherapy unit set up by Govt. of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The other conditions relating to central assistance under the scheme are given in the attached statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Central Assistance of Rs 12 lakhs does not cover the full cost of the Cobalt therapy unit. The remaining cost will have to be borne by the Institution. At present, there is no proposal to increase the quantum of central assistance.

Statement

Conditions for the release of assistance for the purchase/installation of a Cobalt therapy Unit.

(i) The title of the Cobalt Therapy Unit will rest with the Govt. of India and the title the Unit will not change without prior written permission of the Govt. of India.

(ii) The cobalt therapy unit will be maintained in proper working condition and the source thereto must be replenished after the stipulated period.

(iii) The Govt. of India does not bear any responsibility for sanctioning additional assistance for replacement of source of the Cobalt Therapy Unit.

(iv) In event of failure of the Institute/authority to whom Cobalt Therapy Unit has been allotted, to keep the Unit in working condition, it will be the responsibility of the concerned State Govt. where the Cobalt Therapy Unit is situated to ensure that the sum in full received from the Govt. of India full purchase/installation of the Cobalt Therapy Unit be refunded to the Govt. of India immediately.

(v) The Govt. of India reserves the right to issue general/specific instructions for the running of the Cobalt Therapy Unit. It also reserves the right to send an official at any time for the inspection of working of the Cobalt Therapy Unit and any suggestion that he may make will be mandatory of the institute and the State Govt. will ensure that the suggestions are enforced.

(vi) It is responsibility of the Institute concerned to send half yearly report about working of the Cobalt Therapy Unit to the Director General of Health Services on the 1st January and 1st July every year.

(vii) The institute receiving assistance is required to maintain 10 free beds for treatment of cancer cases at all times.

(viii) Any case referred by the Govt. of India to the Institute concerned will be admitted on priority against one of the free beds.

(ix) Any increase in the price of the equipment over and above the amount of grant will be provided by the State Govt./institution from its own sources. In case the cost of the equipment is less than the amount sanctioned the institution will refund the difference to the Central Govt.

Use of Cobalt Radio therapy in India

733. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as a leader in the use of Cobalt Radio-therapy for the treatment of Cancer;

(b) if so, what are the details of the application of radio-therapy in India, including names of the hospitals/institutions which have already got the Cobalt units and names of the companies which supplied and the year in which each machine was installed; and

(c) what are the purpose and powers of the officials Standing Committee on Radiotherapy and details of the role played by it, so far, and envisaged for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Cobalt Therapy is used for treatment of certain types of cancer patients in the hospitals. A list showing the names of the hospitals/institutions which have got the cobalt therapy units, the names of the machines and the year in which they were installed is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 41].

(c) The Standing Committee on Teletherapy Units set up by the Government is an Advisory Committee. The terms of reference of the Committee are given in the attached statement. (*See* below).

Statement

Terms of reference of standing committee on Teletherapy units:

(i) To consider and make recommendations to the concerned Departments in regard to requests for the purchase/supply of Teletherapy Units (Including requests for Linear Accelerators) both indigenous and imported for various hospitals/medical institutions and other governmental and non-governmental agencies for the treatment of cancer.

(ii) To review the functioning and operational problems of Teletherapy units already installed at various centres in the country so that the experience gained in any institution benefits other newer establishments.

(iii) Towards the fulfilment of the aforesaid objectives, the Committee may devise mechanisms and to satisfy itself that he concerned institution/hospitals have the necessary building(s), trained manpower, requisite infrastructure measures for ensuring radiation safety etc. to ensure the optimum utilisation of Teletherapy Units as well as other diagnostic and treatment etc. equipment available at each centre.

(iv) To act as a Technical Advisory Body to asses and Project the present and future demand for indigenously manufactured units and suggest modifications etc. in the designs specifications of equipment for the benefit of indigenous manufacturers and promote adequate productions of needed equipment of relevant and acceptable standards and specifications; and

(v) Any other matter which the Committee may, in its discreation or at the request of any of its Members may deem necessary to consider.